GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:314
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2017
Decline in Tender Coconut Prices
Pandula Dr. Ravindra Babu

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the plight of the coconut farmers of the Konaseema region including the farmers of East and West Godavari districts due to rapid decline in the prices of tender coconut;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide relief to the farmers of the region?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
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(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 314 DUE FOR REPLY ON 8TH AUGUST, 2017.
(a) & (b): The price of tender coconut in West Godavari region during July 2017 was ranging between Rs.7/- to Rs.8/- per nut which is slightly higher than the price of tender coconut which ranged between Rs.6/- to Rs.7/- per nut during July 2016.
(c): Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare through Coconut Development Board (CDB) is implementing various schemes in Andhra Pradesh with a view to encourage value addition and byproduct utilization through Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). CDB is facilitating the formation of FPOs in coconut sector for the benefit of coconut farmers.
In order to help the coconut farmers in getting remunerative prices for their produce, the Central Government has been implementing Price Support Scheme (PSS) for procurement of oil seeds, pulses and cotton through Central nodal agencies. This scheme is implemented at the request of the concerned State Government which agrees to exempt the procured commodities from levy of mandi tax and assist central nodal agencies in logistic arrangements, including gunny bags, working capital for state agencies, creation of revolving fund for PSS operations, etc. as required under the scheme guidelines. The procurement of oilseeds, pulses & cotton are undertaken by central agencies at Minimum Support Price (MSP) announced by the Government as and when prices fall below the MSP.
In addition to above Price Support Scheme, the Central Government has also been implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of horticultural

Contdâ€¦2/-

commodities which are perishable in nature and are not covered under the Price Support Scheme. The objective of intervention is to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of a bumper crop during the peak arrival period when the prices tend to fall below economic levels and cost of production. The Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) is implemented at the request of a State / UT government which is ready to bear 50 percent of the loss (25 percent in case of North-Eastern States), if any, incurred on its implementation. The extent of total amount of loss to be shared on a 50:50 basis between the central government and the state government is restricted to 25 percent of the total procurement value which includes cost of the commodity procured plus permitted overhead expenses. Under the Scheme, in accordance with MIS guidelines, a pre-determined quantity at the fixed Market Intervention Price (MIP) is procured by National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) as the Central agency and the agencies designated by the state government for a fixed period or till the prices are stabilized above the MIP whichever is earlier. The area of operation is restricted to the concerned state only.

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